



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDEPENDENCE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ENTICING A MINOR

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to enticing a minor to engage in sexual activity.

Leroy P. McElwee, 59, of Independence, waived his right to indictment and pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to a federal information that charges him with enticing a minor to engage in sexual activity.

McElwee admitted that he entered an Internet chat room titled "Young girls for older guys 1" between March 16 and 18, 2004, where he engaged in a chat with a person identified as "misty," whom he believed was a 14-year-old girl but in fact was an undercover police officer. During the course of the chats, Graves said, the language quickly degenerated into explicit conversations regarding **McElwee's** desire to have sex with "misty." After chatting with "misty" over a period of three days, **McElwee** agreed to meet at her apartment when her mother was gone. **McElwee** was arrested after he traveled from his job in Lenexa, Kan., to "misty's" apartment in Platte County, Mo.

Under federal statutes, **McElwee** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 30 years in prison, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Valenti. It was investigated by the Platte County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow